

RELIEF BUREAU
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BOLIVIA : FLOODS

Serious flooding which has affected wide areas of Santa Cruz, Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, Oruro and Pando Departments of Bolivia since late January has resulted in over 100,000 victims and most recent reports indicate that heavy rains still continue.

Civil Defence, which is responsible for coordination of the relief operation, requested the Bolivian Red Cross to participate and the Society appealed to the League for a relief delegate to assist them. Accordingly, the League's Regional Relief Delegate, Mr. Alejandro James, went immediately to Bolivia and accompanied the President of the Society, Dr. Hugo Palazzi, and Mr. Beno Glauzer, delegate of the Swiss Red Cross, to Santa Cruz from where they made an aerial survey of some of the worst affected areas in the east of the country. Their first report to the League indicated that the most urgent needs were:

- a) Light weight clothing for tropical climate
- b) 6,000 light weight blankets
- c) 6,000 hammocks with mosquito nets (tents are not advisable in this region because of intense heat up to 40 degrees centigrade)
- d) 2 SSB radio communication units for 40 and 20 metres
- e) Cooking utensils (local purchase)
- f) 4 technical personnel to run camps (for installation of camps and radio operators) who would work with victims and Bolivian Red Cross personnel duly coordinated with health unit.

On this basis a limited appeal was made by the League on 3 February and the League's Chief Delegate in Latin America, Mr. Ricardo Bermudez arranged for the following personnel to assist the Bolivian Red Cross:

Mr. Eduardo Espinoza	Nicaraguan Red Cross
Mr. Bernardo Munoz	Red Cross Society of Panama
Mr. Daniel Martinez	Colombian Red Cross
Mr. Hector Ramirez	Colombian Red Cross

They arrived in La Paz in early February, bringing the requested radio

equipment. At the same time the League advanced US\$ 10,000 (Sw.Frs. 17,200) to the Bolivian Red Cross for the local purchase of some of the immediately available relief supplies and for operational expenses. 6,000 blankets were released from the Panama warehouse and airlifted free of charge to La Paz.

The League's delegation in Bolivia was subsequently strengthened by Dr. Hugo Prado, also of the League's Latin American delegation, and Mr. Carlos Balca, delegate of the Spanish Red Cross. Red Cross volunteers in both Santa Cruz and Cochabamba were trained so that the Society now has a nucleus of personnel for its relief actions.

Mr. James has been reporting regularly from Bolivia. It is clear that damage is considerable. Communications have been totally disrupted in several parts of the country with one railway line and many roads washed away. Landslides of clay and mud occurred in some areas destroying dwellings, water and electricity supplies and forcing the evacuation of entire villages. Cattle raising areas were flooded with heavy losses of animals.

The Bolivian Government was in contact with the United Nations. UNDR0 reported having contributed US\$ 15,000 for the provision of medicaments and, in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and PAHO, 30,000 doses of anti-typhoid vaccine and disposable syringes.

The Bolivian Red Cross, with the help of the League Delegates has continued its relief operation. Red Cross responsibilities in Cochabamba included health care and vaccination. Bolivian Red Cross volunteers, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, inoculated people against rabies and poliomyelitis after an outbreak of this disease claimed 62 victims, including 8 fatalities. The Society reported a need for two vehicles with four-wheel drive for the transport of vaccination teams and other Red Cross relief personnel. 15 refrigerators for the storage of vaccines were also requested.

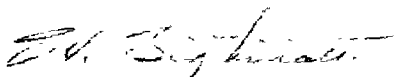
Plans have been drawn up by the authorities for the rehousing of flood victims in two of the areas in which the Bolivian Red Cross was already active. These include the Government allocation of plots of land and the provision of water and electricity supplies. The Bolivian Red Cross has asked the League for assistance in making a Red Cross contribution by the provision of building materials for simple housing for 90 families. The houses will be built by the local people themselves on a "food for work" basis and the cost per house averages approximately Sw.Frs. 400.

Additionally in Misque province of Cochabamba, where the soil has been completely washed away and all the crops destroyed, the Bolivian

Red Cross needs to provide food (maize, potatoes, oil, rice and wheat) to as many as possible of the homeless families.

In response to these further appeals from Bolivia the League extended its telex appeal and thanks to the help announced the League was able to authorise the Bolivian Red Cross to purchase the two vehicles and some of the additional supplies requested.

The costs of the total relief requirements are attached, which amount to approximately Sw.Frs. 400,000. The assistance already announced by National Societies is also attached. In order to enable the Bolivian Red Cross to complete its flood relief action a further Sw.Frs. 312,000 is needed and the generous support of sister Societies will be most appreciated.



E.V. Bighinetti
Under-Secretary General
Disaster Relief Sector



Henrik Bear
Secretary General

BOLIVIAN RED CROSS FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAMME

(Value expressed in Swiss francs)

<u>REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PER UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PROVISION</u>
Light weight blankets	6,000	10	60,000	Despatched from Panama warehouse
Hammocks with mosquito nets	6,000	29	174,000	Available for local purchase
Radio units	2	1,420	2,840	Supplied
Refrigerators and thermos flasks	18	230	4,140	Available for local purchase
4 wheel drive vehicles with special equipment	2	17,350	35,700	Cash sent to ERG for local purchase
Housing, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz	50	400	20,000	Available for local purchase
Light weight clothing				For 100 families from Colombian R.C.
Cooking utensils				Available for local purchase
Food				Available for local purchase

NOTES:

1. The costs listed above total Sw.Frs. 312,680 to which should be added a sum to cover the costs of cooking utensils and food.
2. A further sum should be added to cover the costs of the delegation and administrative expenses.
3. The total sum required for this operation is estimated at Sw.Frs. 400,000.

8.3.1979

BOLIVIA - FLOODS

Gifts announced to the League as of 8.3.79

<u>Participating Society</u>	<u>Gift</u>		<u>Original Currency</u>	<u>Swiss Francs</u>
Canada	cash grant	Can.	3,000	4,158
Colombia	clothing services of delegates		not specified	
Denmark	cash grant	DKr.	25,000	8,130
Finland	cash grant	FMk	10,000	4,214
Nicaragua	services of delegate		not specified	
Norway	cash grant	NKr.	30,000	9,831
Panama	services of delegate		not specified	
Spain	cash grant	US\$	21,000	35,700
Sweden	cash grant	SwCr.	25,000	9,590
U.S.A.	cash grant	US\$	10,000	16,700